




IBAT

Annual Report
2020



Sri Lankan elephant
Elephas maximus
Endangered



Introduction

2020 was billed as a “super-year” for nature, with several major events on the international biodiversity agenda set to chart a course for protecting biodiversity over the next decade and beyond. While many of the major conferences were postponed, the extent of the biodiversity crisis was made clear in several landmark reports. The World Economic Forum set the tone for the year by declaring that \$44 trillion – more than half of global GDP – is exposed to risk from nature loss.

The Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT) Alliance, building on more than 10 years of experience, entered the new decade with great hope and expectation for change. IBAT continues its role as the leading tool for the assessment of biodiversity risk, combining three of the most globally authoritative biodiversity datasets – the World Database on Protected Areas, the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas, and The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

IBAT offers a one-stop shop for biodiversity data and services, packaging complementary datasets into a variety of bespoke risk screening reports. IBAT is used by hundreds of organisations and thousands of users across the world to perform early stage, high level biodiversity risk screening, such as scoping Environmental Impact Assessments and screening investments against environmental safeguards.

In addition to helping organisations incorporate biodiversity data into their decision making, IBAT subscriptions directly support the update and maintenance of these critical global biodiversity datasets. IBAT’s unique business model helps ensure that the platform continues to evolve to meet user’s needs, while supporting conservation activities.

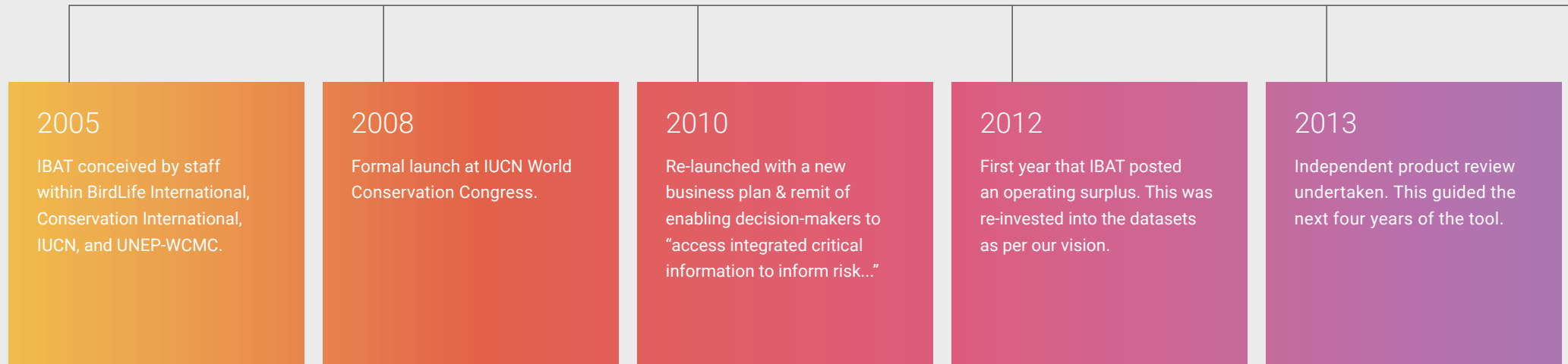
– Edward Ellis – IBAT Manager

Background

IBAT is a web-based map and reporting tool that provides fast, easy and integrated access to three of the world's most authoritative global biodiversity datasets:



Timeline



IBAT is developed and maintained by the IBAT Alliance (BirdLife International, Conservation International, UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), and IUCN) with the aim to enable users to make informed decisions in policy and practice.

The IBAT team are based at the David Attenborough Building, a vibrant hub for leading conservation organisations.



2017

Staff from across the IBAT Alliance work together to develop the 2018–2023 business plan.

2018

IBAT platform was redeveloped and a new team recruited (Manager and Finance & Administration Officer).

2019

Launch of new platform, Technical Officer recruited, and user support grown to include webinars and tutorials.

2020

New IBAT Manager and addition of IBAT Programme Officer. Launch of series of IBAT Briefing Notes, launch of geospatial file upload functionality and dramatic growth in the IBAT datasets.

Informing
world-shaping
decisions

“Our common vision is that decisions affecting critical biodiversity should be informed by the best and most up to date scientific information and the decision-makers who use that information should help support its generation and maintenance”

- IBAT Alliance Partners

Scarlet Macaw
Ara macao
Least concern
Madre de Dios, Peru
World Database on Protected Areas



2020 – Concluding the UN Decade on Biodiversity

Data updates

Concluding the UN Decade on Biodiversity and the Aichi Targets, IBAT's datasets saw substantial developments at the end of the year. In particular, protected areas saw dynamic changes in response to Target 11 with ~50,000 new sites added. More information on the changes to protected areas is available in the [Protected Planet Annual Report](#). The IUCN Red List also saw increases in the number of assessments by >22,000 species.

New staff

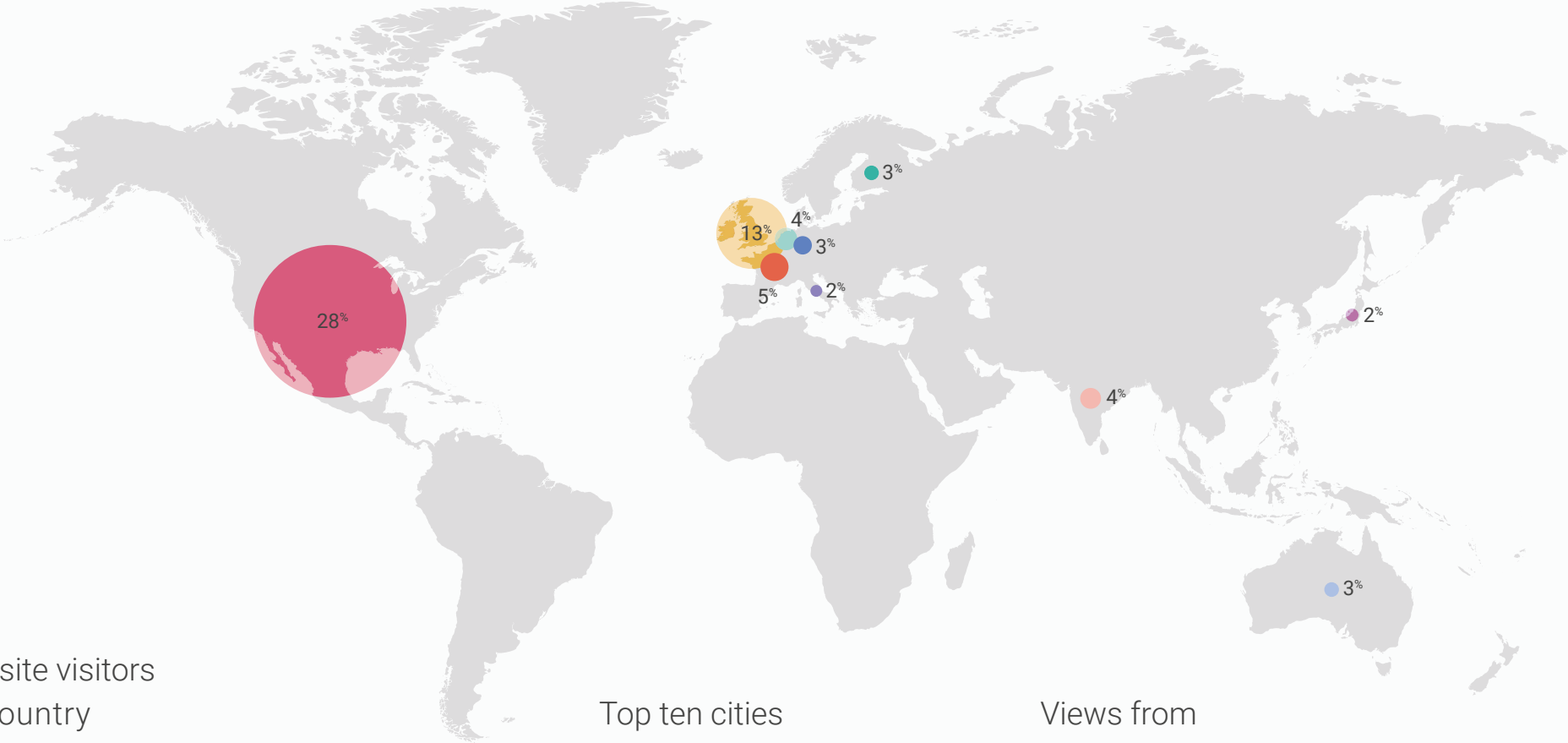
In May 2020, the IBAT Secretariat announced a new Programme Officer position. We welcomed Ben Jobson into this role from BirdLife International, where he had been working with the Global Science Team to facilitate the sustainable deployment of renewable energies around the world. In September 2020, we welcomed Ed Ellis as the new Manager of IBAT. Ed joined IBAT from his previous role as a Deployment Strategist for Palantir Technologies, a data integration and analysis company – Ed brings a wealth of experience of both data and technology, as well as on-the-ground conservation.

User support

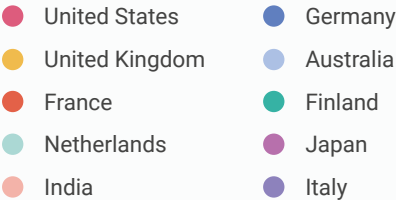
Building on the objectives of user support in 2019, IBAT released a variety of webinars showcasing how the tool can be used in a range of scenarios. The Alliance also produced the first in a series of Industry Briefing Notes – initially outlining how IBAT can be used for risk screening in the finance sector. The new Programme Officer role will provide additional support through training sessions for all IBAT Subscribers available upon request.



Website visitor location



Website visitors by country



Top ten cities

1. London
2. Ashburn (Washington)
3. Amsterdam
4. Paris
5. Helsinki
6. Cambridge
7. Vienna
8. San Antonio
9. Cheyenne
10. Madrid

Views from

190 Countries

Reports downloaded

5,127

Total no. of reports
downloaded in 2020.

6,144

Users on the IBAT platform.
A 75% increase from 2019.

One of IBAT's most popular functionalities is our biodiversity data report delivered as a package that includes a PDF document, raw data in CSV format, and map files. Our report templates include a simple proximity report, a World Bank Group biodiversity risk report, and a freshwater report.

Borneo Birdwing
Troides andromache
Vulnerable
Kinabatangan, Malaysia
World Database on Protected Areas
World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas

Range of IBAT's users

AC Energy
Asian Development Bank
Aditya Birla Group
AECOM
African Development Bank
Asian Infrastructure
Investment Bank
Allianz
Alpage
Anglo American
Aqua y Terra
Artelia
Barrick Gold Corporation
BHP
BNP Paribas
BP
Bpifrance
Cairn Energy
CEMEX
Chevron
Credit Suisse
Danish Export Credit Agency
(EKF)
Earth Active

EDF
ENGIE
Eni
Equinor
ERM
European Investment Bank
Evonik (PSG Procurement
Services)
ExxonMobil
Finance in Motion
Finnfund
FMO (Netherlands Development
Finance Company)
FTSE International
Fundación Herencia Natural
Geobiota Consultancy
Globeleq Africa
Golder
Hess
Hummingbird Resources
IADB (Inter American
Development Bank)
IFC
IFU (Danish Development

Finance Institution)
IKEA
ING
JPMorgan
JTM Consultants
Kinder Morgan
Knight Piesold
Korea Eximbank
L'Oréal
Maplecroft (Wood Mackenzie)
McKinsey & Company
METABOLIC BV
MIGA
Mitsubishi
Monsoon Carbon
Mott MacDonald
MS & AD InterRisk Research &
Consulting
Nestle Waters Management
New Development Bank
Newmont
NJD Advisory Services Ltd
Olam

Owens Corning
Petronas
PWC (German Export Credit
Agency)
Ramboll
Repsol
RINA
Rio Tinto
RPS Group
RSK Group
SACE
Shell
South32
Standard Chartered
Stichting &Green fund
Swedish Export Credit Agency
(EKN)
The Biodiversity Consultancy
Titan Cement
Total
Tullow Oil
UK Export Finance
Unilever

UPC Renewables
Vale
Veolia
Votorantim Cimentos
Wardell Armstrong
Woodside
World Bank Group
WSP
Xenops Environmental
Zoetica Environmental

User stories

HeidelbergCement

HeidelbergCement is one of the world's largest integrated manufacturers of building materials and solutions. At the centre of actions lies the responsibility for the environment. Together with customers and partners, HeidelbergCement drives innovation and crafts material for the future in a sustainable way.

HeidelbergCement regularly subscribes to IBAT to support the implementation of our company biodiversity-related commitments. With the support of BirdLife International, data within IBAT is used to run a proximity study enabling us to understand which of our sites are located in more biodiversity sensitive areas and therefore require biodiversity management plans. Given the dynamism around the designation of high biodiversity value areas, particularly in light of the upcoming post-2020 biodiversity framework, the availability of up to date information through IBAT is highly appreciated. The data also enables our country-based colleagues to understand more about the biodiversity in and around their sites, which is particularly important when starting new or extending existing extraction areas, and to help shape site-based projects with local NGO partners. As the restoration of habitats is a particularly important topic for us, post-extraction, we are excited to start integrating the STAR (Species Threat Abatement and Restoration) metric into our regular usage of IBAT.

– Dr Carolyn Jewell, Global Biodiversity Senior Manager, HeidelbergCement

International Olympic Committee

Sustainability has a central place in the work of the IOC and it is one of the three pillars of Olympic Agenda 2020 – the strategic roadmap for the future of the Olympic Movement. As a result, sustainability principles are embedded throughout the lifecycle of the Olympic Games: from the early dialogue and candidature phases; through to the legacy that the Games create.

IBAT is one of the strategic tools used by the IOC during the early phases of the Olympic Games. "IBAT enables us to make sure that nature conservation is addressed at the very early stages of the cities' Olympic journey. Based on data available through IBAT, if necessary, cities can modify their plans for the siting of Olympic facilities so as to avoid impacting areas of high biodiversity value. They can also go a step further by looking into ways in which hosting the Olympic Games can contribute to biodiversity conservation in the area."

The use of IBAT has been facilitated by IUCN's Business and Biodiversity Programme, through the IUCN/IOC partnership. The partnership was established in 2016 to support the IOC in the delivery of its Sustainability Strategy, specifically in relation to nature conservation.

– Michelle Lemaitre, Head of Sustainability at the International Olympic Committee

IBAT has always put users at the heart of its development. It was initially co-developed with private sector users to support early stage biodiversity risk screening, for example screening against World Bank Group's biodiversity performance standards. This remains one of the core applications of the tool but it is now also used in a range of circumstances and by a wide set of users including the Asian Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Evonik, IFC, International Olympic Committee, and Olam.

Norwegian Government Pension Fund Global - Council on Ethics

"IBAT is an important tool to help us assess the risk of serious biodiversity loss associated with the fund's investments."

The Council on Ethics is an independent advisor to Norges Bank, Norway's central bank, which manages the Norwegian Government Pension Fund Global. The Council assesses whether investments in specific companies are inconsistent with the fund's ethical guidelines. Companies may be excluded from the fund if they contribute to or are themselves responsible for serious violations of norms, including severe environmental damage. IBAT is an essential source of information when assessing whether companies' activities may threaten important protected areas and Key Biodiversity Areas.

– Hilde Jervan, Chief Advisor at the Council on Ethics

World Bank

At the World Bank, we use IBAT to help us screen the conservation and biodiversity value of the areas where we finance projects. We find the tool very effective and user-friendly, as we can quickly identify biodiversity information on threatened species and critical habitat, which can be used to prevent and minimize impacts of project development on biodiversity. World Bank users of IBAT have screened more than 350 project locations around the world.

– Ruth Tiffer-Sotomayor, Senior Environmental Specialist at The World Bank



Ayagama, Sri Lanka
World Database on Protected Areas
World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas

Aditya Birla Group

Aditya Birla Group adopted a group-level Biodiversity Policy in April 2018 and the following accounts are two examples of companies using IBAT to meet these requirements:

UltraTech Cement Ltd., an Aditya Birla Group Company is the world's third largest cement manufacturing company (excluding China) with 100+ MTPA of cement manufacturing capacity in a single country - India. The company's business operations span UAE, Bahrain, Sri Lanka and India.

UltraTech has committed to No Net Loss as part of their biodiversity policy. UltraTech is committed to conducting its business responsibly and recognises the importance of biodiversity and associated ecosystem services for the long-term sustainability of its operations. Consequently, all sites have undergone early-stage screening for potential biodiversity-related risks and opportunities through the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT). Based on the results from IBAT, UltraTech have further prioritised sites to put a comprehensive Biodiversity Management Plan in place.

Hindalco Industries Ltd, an Aditya Birla Group company, is the world's largest aluminum rolling company and among the biggest producers of primary aluminium in Asia. One of the requirements of the group biodiversity policy is to undertake biodiversity screening at all the business units and operational locations. Hindalco has used IBAT extensively for meeting this requirement.

Hindalco sustainability cell has completed a biodiversity screening at all operational locations including both plants and mines. IBAT Proximity Reports were generated for all locations with standard buffers of 5, 15 and 25 km. The information about existing Protected Areas (PAs), Key Biodiversity Area (KBAs) and IUCN Red List species (Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable) at all the locations was collated and potential biodiversity risk at each site understood with the help of IBAT.

To turn this information into action, Hindalco team carried out a prioritization exercise among the sites. Using the same parameters, PAs, KBAs and Red Listed species were considered and the numbers at each location were examined for the 5, 15 and 25 km buffers. The sites having PAs and/or KBAs within the 5 km buffer were characterized as HIGH priority. The sites having PAs and/or KBAs between 5-15 km were characterized as MEDIUM priority. The sites with PAs and/or KBAs between 15-25 km were characterized as LOW priority. Hindalco is now strategically planning for taking action at high priority sites first in addition to the national compliance requirements.

Based on above characterization, 8 sites (2 Plants, 6 Mines) were identified as High priority, 20 sites (4 Plants, 16 Mines) were identified as Medium priority and 10 sites (7 Plants, 3 Mines) were identified as Low priority. Hindalco also developed an excel based priority meter with all this information for easy access to all Hindalco staff.

Bringing data to life

Described by our users as “a must for any project on biodiversity conservation”, IBAT offers a ‘one-stop shop’ data search service for those seeking authoritative global biodiversity information. IBAT subscriptions, in turn, help update and maintain these datasets.



IUCN Red List of
Threatened Species



World Database on
Protected Areas



World Database of
Key Biodiversity Areas



Humphead wrasse
Cheilinus undulatus
Endangered

World Database on Protected Areas

The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) is the authoritative source of data on protected areas, and is updated on a monthly basis. Since 2019, it has been accompanied by a companion database on other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs).

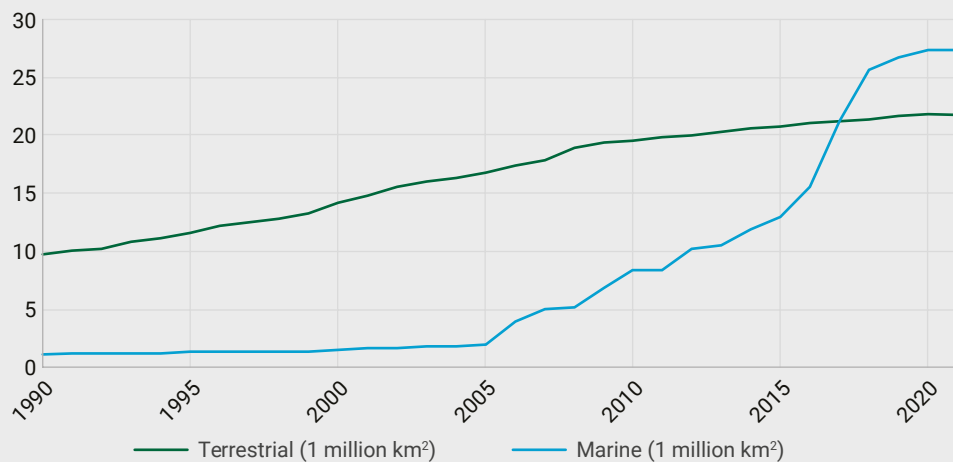
The WDPA is a joint product between UNEP and IUCN, and is managed by UNEP-WCMC. The team works continuously with representatives from governments, communities and collaborative partners, as well as international convention secretariats. The WDPA and World Database on OECMs are key components of the Protected Planet initiative, which is the most authoritative global platform providing the world's decision makers and the community of practitioners with the best possible information, knowledge and tools for understanding protected and conserved areas at national and global levels.

The funding provided by the IBAT Alliance in 2020, alongside contributions from other sources, enabled the WDPA to form the basis of the Protected Planet Report 2020: the final report card on progress towards the global 10-year target on protected and conserved areas which aimed to bring important benefits to both biodiversity and people by 2020.

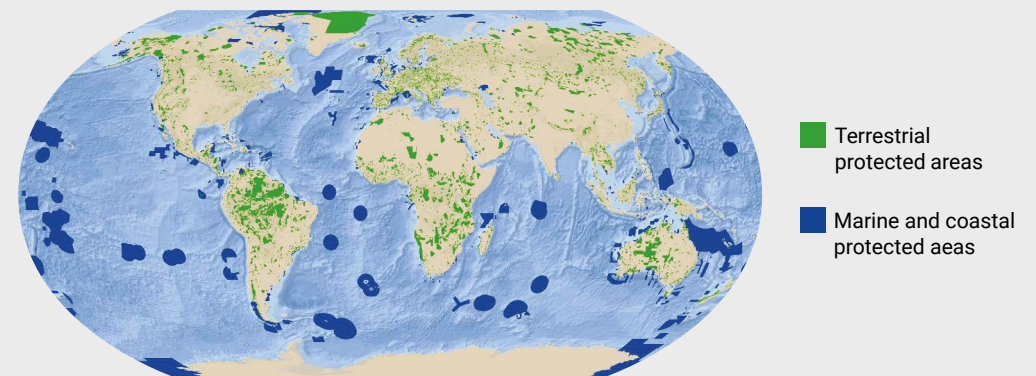
In 2020, the IBAT Alliance income enabled the unprecedented improvement and updating of country protected and conserved area data: 89% of WDPA and OECM records were updated or added between January 2020 and May 2021.

The data showed that 22.5 million km² (16.64%) of land and inland water ecosystems and 28.1 million km² (7.74%) of coastal waters and the ocean are within documented protected and conserved areas, an increase of over 21 million km² (42% of the current coverage) since 2010. It is clear that coverage on land will considerably exceed the 17% target when data for all areas are made available, as some types of protected and conserved areas are under-reported.

Progress to date in coverage of protected areas



Protected areas of the world



World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas

The World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas (WDKBA) compiles the data on all sites of significance for the global persistence of biodiversity.

It is managed by BirdLife International on behalf of the KBA Partnership, a consortium of 13 of the world's leading conservation organisations who are identifying, mapping and promoting the conservation of the most important places on the planet for biodiversity.

Sites are identified at national level and the criteria used to identify them focus on five aspects of biodiversity value:

1. Threatened species/ecosystems
2. Species/ecosystems with restricted ranges
3. Intact sites with minimal human impact
4. Biological processes such as congregations of species
5. Sites of high irreplaceability

The funding provided by the IBAT Alliance in 2020, alongside contributions from other resources, has continued to support the ongoing management and development of the WDKBA and the update of the KBA dataset. In 2020, the new-format KBA website was launched, now with easily navigable content about the KBA Partnership and Programme, hosting a range of guidelines, links and tools to support the

identification and update of data on KBAs. There are currently 16,343 KBAs recognised for the world, adding or updating 538 KBAs in 2020 in the WDKBA. While still dominated by the Important Bird and Biodiversity Area data, the number of sites where other taxonomic groups are being assessed is growing rapidly as are the number of countries interested in making national assessments of their KBAs.

The development of training materials in 2020, including 13 training modules and 40 practical exercises, was of enormous benefit in supporting many training workshops held throughout the year, the majority of which were virtual. This resource is now available in four languages (English, French, Spanish and Portuguese) and will expand KBA Partners ability to support training around the world.

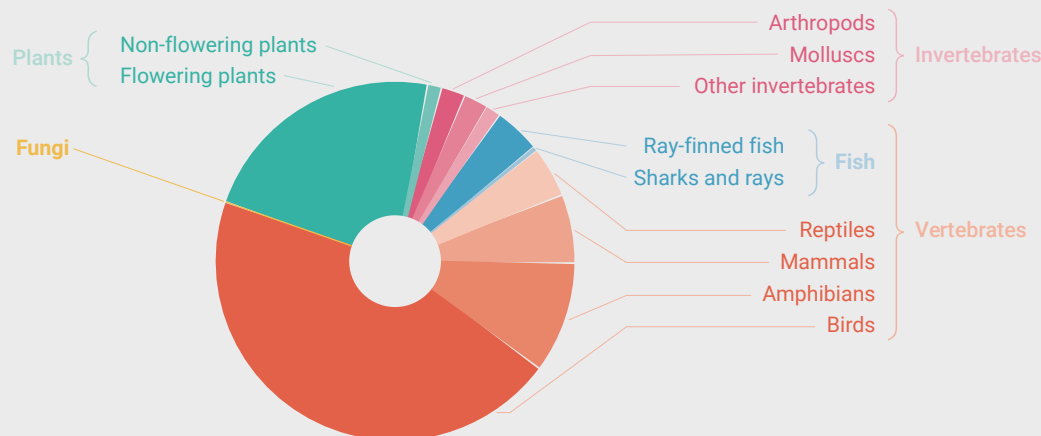
Comprehensive national assessments of KBAs across multiple taxonomic groups have been ongoing in Canada, South Africa, and Uganda, and in 2020 Mozambique completed its two-year comprehensive assessment of KBAs. With the support of a National Coordination Group the project engaged more than 100 national, regional and international experts across multiple taxonomic groups, and resulted in 29 KBAs that were thoroughly reviewed, confirmed and published in the WDKBA by the end of the year. These KBAs cover 17% of Mozambique's terrestrial and 1% of its marine EEZ.

The percentage cover of KBAs by protected areas continues to be used as an indicator of progress towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15, as well as for assessing progress towards the 'Aichi Targets'

in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity adopted through the Convention on Biological Diversity. Currently an average of 42.3% of each KBA is covered by protected areas. 18.7% of KBAs are completely covered and 42.1% are partially covered, while 39.2% lack any coverage.

Ongoing priorities for the KBAs beyond 2020 include completing and undertaking new comprehensive national KBA assessments, supported by the development of the online data management portal to support the KBA proposal process, making the training materials more widely accessible, and the establishment of new KBA National Coordination Groups. The KBA Partnership will also continue to promote greater recognition of the value of KBAs through its engagement in various policy fora, including Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) among others.

Proportion of species triggering KBAs



IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

More than 35,700 species are threatened with extinction

That is 28% of all assessed species.

Proportions threatened by groups:

AMPHIBIANS

40%



MAMMALS

26%



SHARKS & RAYS

33%



REEF CORALS

33%



CONIFERS

34%



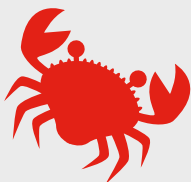
BIRDS

14%



SELECTED CRUSTACEANS

28%



The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is the world's most comprehensive information source on the global conservation status of animal, fungi and plant species and their links to human livelihoods.

It is a powerful tool to inform and catalyse action for biodiversity conservation through policy change and action on the ground. The IUCN Red List evaluates the extinction risk of thousands of species, using nine categories; Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN) and Vulnerable (VU) species are considered to be threatened with extinction.

Data from the IUCN Red List is of international importance and is used to track progress towards UN Sustainable Development Goal 15– Life on Land. It is anticipated the implementation of a new post-2020 international framework for saving nature will hinge on the availability and performance of the IUCN Red List.

Resources generated by IBAT are provided to the IUCN Red List Partnership (iucnredlist.org/about/partners) to support three key priority areas.

1. The expansion of the the IUCN Red List to make it more representative of life on earth.
2. Regular reviews of species already on the IUCN Red List so that changes in the status and taxonomy of species are incorporated.
3. Ensure the IUCN Red List website and database are underpinned by appropriate technologies.

In 2020 we added 16,603 new entries to the IUCN Red List. These included 763 plants because of the large focus on global tree assessments. We also conducted re-assessments of 5,422 species – bringing the total number of assessments to a record-breaking 22,025 in 2020!

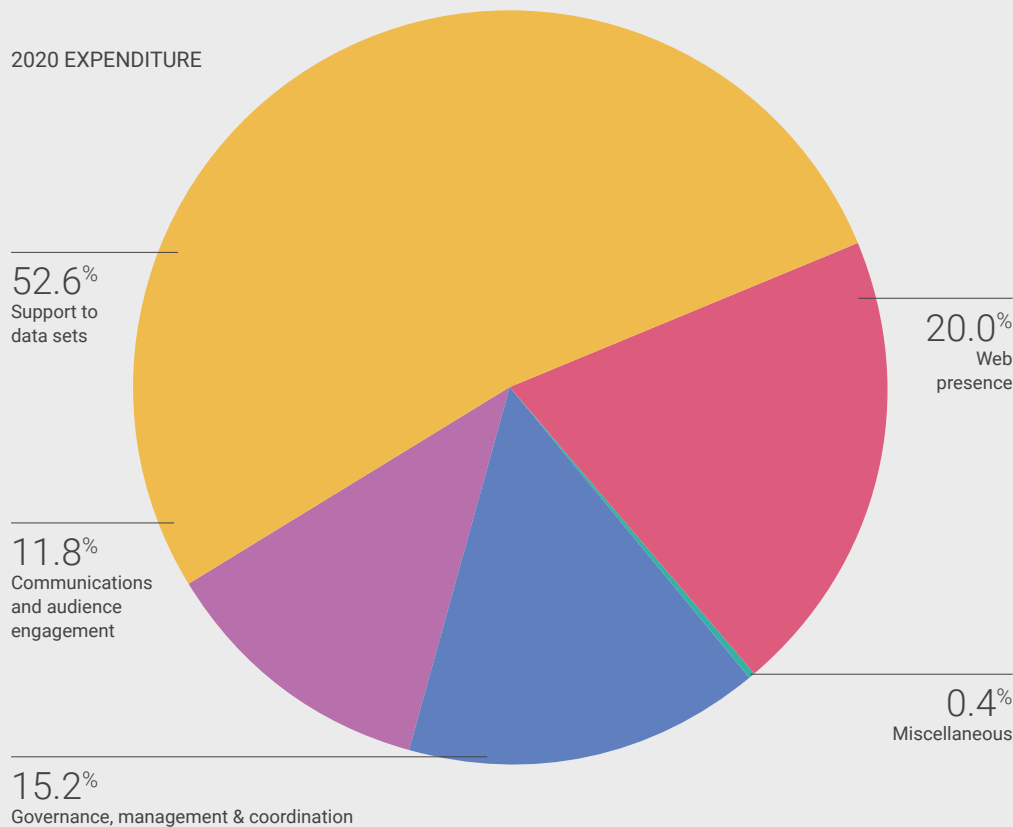
Funds raised by IBAT in 2020 are being used to support the expansion and update of freshwater species, invertebrates, reptiles, birds, mammals, amphibians and plants. Funds also helped support improvements in internal processes for handling spatial data, and improvements to the IUCN Red List website, including interactive automated statistic tables and the ability to download a variety of species specific maps.

2020 financial report

IBAT subscriptions directly support the update and maintenance of three of the world's most authoritative global datasets: the World Database on Protected Areas, the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas, and the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

The annual cost of updating and maintaining these datasets is estimated at US\$6.5 million. An additional US\$114 million will be needed to reach baselines of data coverage for global biodiversity and conservation knowledge products.

2020 EXPENDITURE



2020 subscription income

USD

TOTAL (includes PAYG @ USD 73,000)	1,328,666
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2020 expenses

USD

Support to management, maintenance and interpretation of core IBAT data sets	560,066
Web presence	213,043
Governance, management and coordination (IBAT staff, support to IBAT from Alliance)	161,568
Communications and audience engagement	125,462
Miscellaneous (office equipment, legal, other)	4,565
TOTAL	1,064,704



What next?

The momentum around biodiversity continues to build. Initiatives such as the Taskforce for Nature Related Financial Disclosures and the EU Sustainable Finance Taxonomy signal that all companies will need to develop and report on their relationship with nature. Robust, authoritative and operational biodiversity data will be key to helping companies meet the challenges of an evolving landscape.

In 2021, IBAT will be integrating the Species Threat Abatement and Restoration metric, an exciting new metric that allows organisations to quantitatively measure their potential contributions to reducing species extinction risk. Incorporated fully into the IBAT platform, STAR will be available through bespoke STAR Reports, GIS Downloads and visualisation on IBAT's data map.

IBAT will seek novel partnerships, finding new ways of delivering IBAT's datasets and enabling critical biodiversity data to reach more users and influence more decisions for a nature-positive outcome. We will continue to improve our support to users - delivering trainings, webinars and troubleshooting support to our growing subscriber base. Finally, we will continue to expand and improve IBAT as a platform, ensuring IBAT continues to deliver value for money and a first-class user experience.

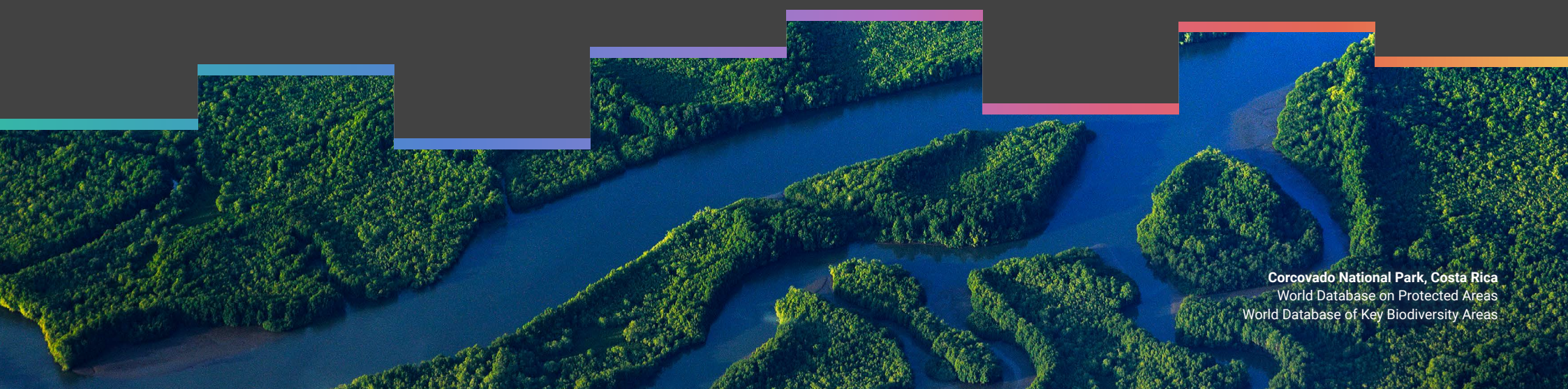
IBAT plays a critical role in supporting the World Database on Protected Areas, the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas and the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The funding generated through IBAT helps update, maintain and improve these crucial biodiversity datasets. We would like to thank all our subscribers for their support, which is greatly appreciated.



Get in touch with us

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Corcovado National Park, Costa Rica
World Database on Protected Areas
World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas